

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 1, 3, and 6 have been amended to clarify the manner in which the recited invention distinguishes patentably from Geiger (6,240,602), the reference relied upon in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Submitted herewith as Exhibit A is a marked-up reproduction of Figs. 14-16 of Geiger, and submitted herewith as Exhibit B is a marked-up reproduction of Figs. 3 and 4A of the drawings of the present application.

With regard to amended Claim 1, it is apparent in Exhibit A that the pawl 70 in Fig. 15 of Geiger does not have only a single pair of thread engaging sections thereon and does not have only a single pair of grooves thereon. It is also apparent that opposite sides of the thick section of the pawl 70 of Geiger do not extend continuously from the grooves at the tip of the pawl to the thin section devoid of thread engaging sections and grooves corresponding to thread engaging sections. Compare Fig. 15 of Geiger in Exhibit A with Fig. 3 of the present application drawings in Exhibit B.

With regard to Claim 3, it is apparent from Fig. 15 of Geiger in Exhibit A that the pawl 70 does not have only a single pair of thread engaging sections thereon. Also, it is apparent in Fig. 16 of Geiger in Exhibit A that with the stud 30 inserted in the bore, a centerline "b" of the pawl 70 forms an angle of 90° from the centerline "a" of the pawl before insertion of a stud.

With regard to claim 6, it is apparent in Fig. 15 of Geiger in Exhibit A that pawl 70 does not have only a single thread engaging section at one side of the pawl and does not have only a single groove at said one side of the pawl, the thread engaging section being located at a tip of the pawl and the groove being adjacent to the thread engaging section. Furthermore, it is apparent that the pawl 70 does not have a length extending continuously along said one side from the groove to the hinge that is devoid of thread engaging sections and thread crest receiving grooves.

Finally, it is apparent in Fig. 14 of Geiger in Exhibit A that the tips of the engaging sections and the grooves are straight, not arcuate in a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the bore, as required by Claims 4, 5, and 10, and as shown in Fig. 4A of the of the drawings of the present application in Exhibit B.

For the foregoing reasons it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now presented distinguish patentably from the prior art and should be allowed.

This application is believed to be clearly in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (A-9923) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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